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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Iskra Precision Tool and Electrotechnical
Factory, Ljubljana

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Next Review Date: 2008

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 map
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Iskra Precision Tool and Electrotechnical Factory, one of the largest of its kind in Yugoslavia, is located in Kranj approximately 200 meters southeast of the Kranj railroad station between the railroad and the Sava River. Before the second world war a section of this factory was the Jugo-Ceska Textile factory which was originally built with Czechoslovak financial backing. During the war, the Germans converted this section into a metal fabricating plant and equipped it with modern machinery for the manufacture of aircraft engines and spare parts. The machinery is still at the Iskra factory but, because of a lack of skilled personnel, it is not being used.
2. The following installations are numbered in accordance with the attached map.
 1. Metallurgical school, consisting of a number of one-story wooden huts.
 2. Metal section, a one-story stone building, with a glass roof.
 3. Carpentry section.
 4. Galvanizing section
 5. Chemical laboratory.
 6. Seven-story concrete building. The personnel department, welding section, mounting and testing sections for instruments and clocks, and classrooms are located on the first floor; shipping departments on the second and third floors; administrative offices including offices of the heads of the different departments on the fourth and fifth floors; and laboratories on the sixth and seventh floors.
 7. Gatehouse and factory militia guardroom, a low stone building containing three rooms.

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9. Chimney, 20 meters high, for the foundry, central heating installation, and auxiliary steam power plant.
 10. Viaduct with narrow gauge track which runs above the railroad line and factory road, and above one part of the factory, into the first story of the seven-story building (6) to an elevator which has a capacity of half a railroad carload.*
 11. Factory committee building and mess hall, a two-story stone building,
 12. Outdoor tennis court.
 13. Outdoor swimming pool.
 14. Workers dwellings, one-story wooden huts.
 15. Houses for other employees, two-story buildings of stone construction. Source noted that additional houses of this sort are being built.
 16. Courtyard.
 17. Park.
 18. Fence.
3. The following items are manufactured at the Iskra factory: electric counters with a capacity of 240 pieces per day, exact copies of a Siemens counter; bakelite cases for telephones which are manufactured for the Rade Koncar factory in Zagreb; valves for automobile and bicycle tubes; "Wertheim" locks and various types of patent keys; voltmeters and ammeters for high frequency current manufactured for power plants and factories; electric hand-drilling and grinding (brusilni) machines with built-in motors; "Bergman" pipes and metal material for electrical installations; electrical equipment for automobiles; and amplifiers for public address systems. The factory also manufactures large quantities of wall clocks in small cases which are used throughout Yugoslavia in offices and public buildings. According to source, the section producing these clocks is scheduled to be transferred to Zagreb. In addition, the Iskra factory manufactures "Kosmaj" radio sets, which are sold only to Communist organizations at a fixed price of 5,000 dinars. Source states that these radio sets are very inferior in quality. Source commented upon the fact that the factory has a sufficient supply of technical materials and large quantities of tubes, wire, dynamo-sheet iron (dynamo polocevnina) and other small parts, none of which have been made available to the retail market where they are in great demand.
4. The factory experiments in many phases of precision mechanics and electro-technics. Marijan LAVRENCIC, an engineer, has built prototypes of an automatic telephone exchange copied from a Siemens model, a special telephone inductor which is very small and light, relays for house telephones and automatic exchanges, a small automatic relay exchange for two lines, and a relay station for nine lines. In September 1948, Engr. Herman VIDAR, an expert on sonics and Franc SPILER, a technician, constructed the prototype of a small movie projector for 16 mm film designed for use by rural cinema houses and commercial firms. Source believes that the projector will be released for production shortly. In January 1949, after a year's work, VIDMAR and SPILER completed a larger movie projector, type NP-1 for 35 mm film, the first model of which has been installed in the Moste Cinema in Ljubljana. With the exception of tubes and lenses, the entire projector was manufactured at the Iskra factory at a cost of 4 million dinars, and Communist propaganda extolls the projector as one of the most notable of Iskra products. In the fall of 1948, an electric clock with quartz crystal regulators was built under the supervision of Engineer GRUDEN. The clock has a variation of a few seconds per year, and has been installed at the Federal Institute of Telecommunications, Ljubljana, in a special underground room under controlled temperature conditions.

Auth: DDA ENG. 77

Date: 24 May 78 By: 017

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5. A total of 1,300 persons are employed at the Iskra factory, including a number of German technicians who are well paid and enjoy certain privileges. Source mentioned the name of LINKE, GAERBER, SCHMIDT, RASCHENDORFER, ERNST, and ENCELMAN, all of whom are German experts. A large number of the employees are said to be anti-Communist. In early 1949, the Communist Party abolished the Iskra factory committee and formed a new committee under the direction of Franc VIDIC, an ardent Communist. Members of the new committee include Cene STIGLIC, in charge of purchasing, Ivan SUSTARSIC, chief inspector, Ciril GASPERLIN, a secretary, Ivan KRANJC, in charge of social welfare, and Herman BAJDA, in charge of food procurement.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The narrow gauge railroad and elevator apparently service the shipping departments on the second and third floors of this building.

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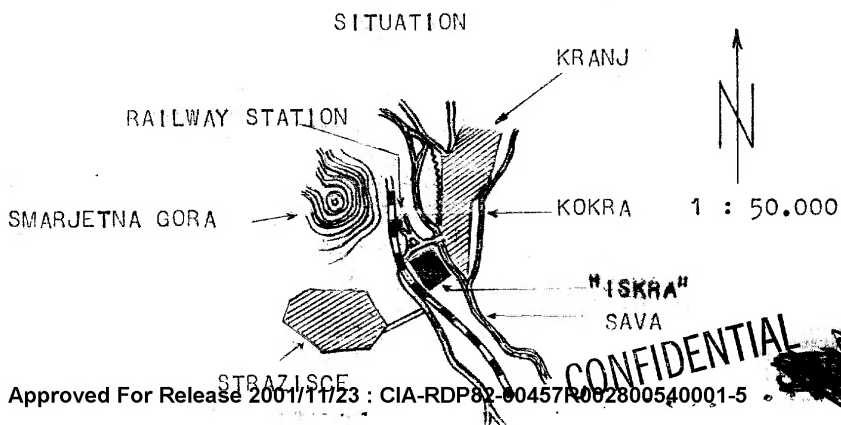
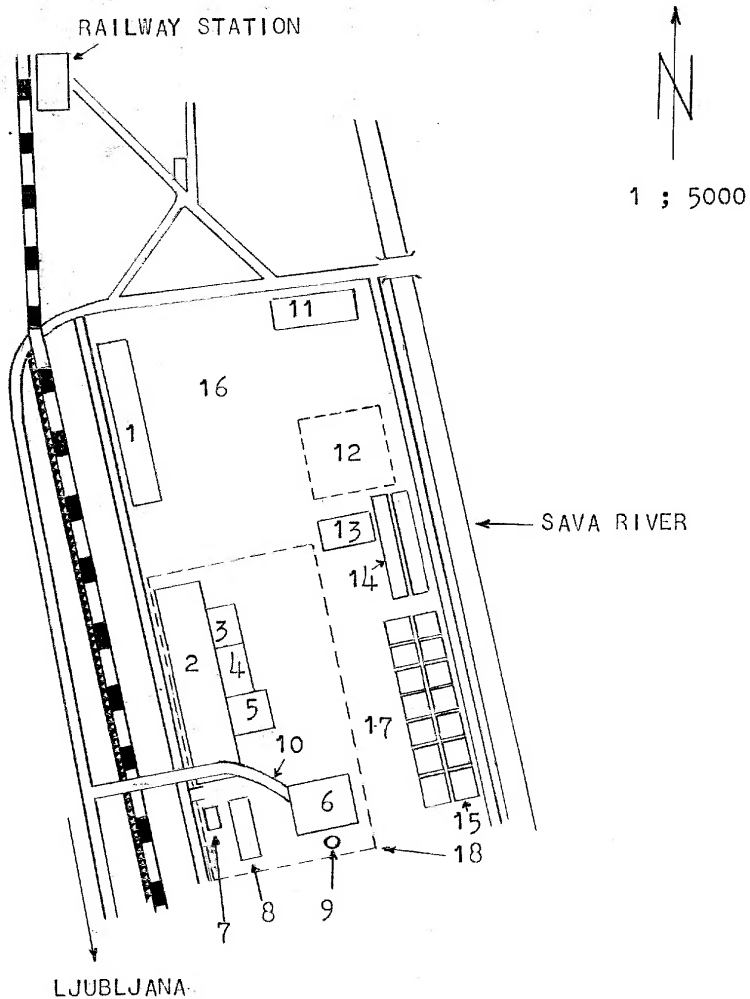
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"ISKRA" - KRANJ

FACTORY OF PRECISION TOOLS AND ELECTROTECHNIC MATERIAL



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